

ATRS REVIEW

Arkansas Teacher Retirement System

1400 West Third - Little Rock, AR 72201 - Telephone (501) 682-1517
(Outside Pulaski County) 1-800-666-2877

In the past, ATRS has published 1 to 3 newsletters per year. It is the goal of the current administration to try to print 4 newsletters per year. We feel this will keep our members more involved and up-to-date with all the activities of ATRS.

If you have any suggestions on what you would like to see, or comments on the newsletter, feel free to contact us.



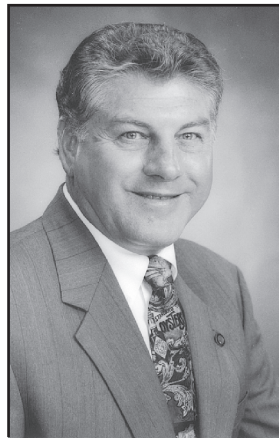
REVIEW

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BOARD ELECTION RESULTS

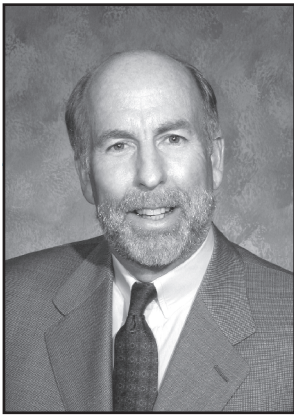
The Arkansas Teacher Retirement System has three new Trustees serving on the Board. Bobby Lester, Retirant Trustee, Janelle Riddle, Member Trustee, and Candace Franks, Ex Officio - State Bank Commissioner. Mr. Lester, featured below, fills a position that was left vacant after the death of Winifred Clardy late last year. Ms. Riddle takes the position vacated by Lawrence Colston who decided not to run again, and Ms. Franks serves by statute as the newly appointed Bank Commissioner. Also, Robin Nichols ran unopposed and will serve her first full term as a Member Trustee. We will feature the other new Trustees in upcoming issues.



Bobby Lester

Mr. Lester is a Life and Continuing Member of ARTA. He is a native of Rose Bud, AR, and now makes his home in Jacksonville. He married Laura Forbes who is also a native of Rose Bud and a Life and Continuing Member of ARTA. They have two children - Bobby and Mandy, and three grandchildren. He holds a B.S.E. Degree from Arkansas State Teachers College (1966). He received an M.S.E. Degree (1970) and an ED.S. Degree (1973) from the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville. He was a member of the inaugural class of the American Association of School Administrators Superintendent's Academy at Temple University (San Antonio, TX) in 1984.

Lester began his education career teaching secondary science at Humnoke JR/SR High School (Humnok, AR) in 1966. In 1969, he began a 30-year career in the Pulaski County School District where he started as a Jr. High and, later, Sr. High principal in the Jacksonville schools before becoming Director of Secondary Education (1978) and then Assistant Superintendent (1981). In 1984 he was selected as superintendent of the Pulaski County District and served in that capacity for 15 years until his retirement in June of 1999. He was selected as Superintendent of the Year in Arkansas in 1990. He is President of the Jacksonville Lions Club, President of the Senior Citizens Board, and a member of the Jacksonville Planning Commission.



Paul Doane

"I've longed to be able to serve the members of ATRS as your Director, and I'm prepared, with an excellent staff, to meet the challenges ahead."

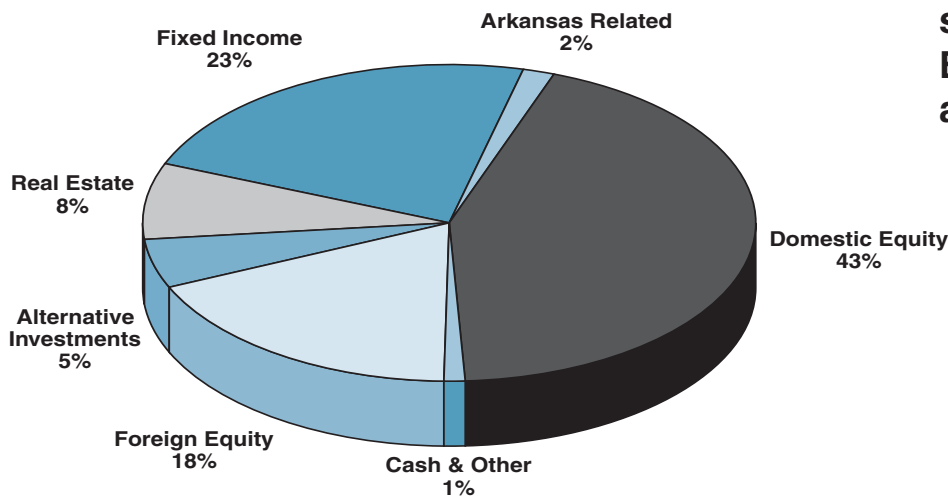
NEW CHIEF EXECUTIVE AT THE TEACHER RETIREMENT SYSTEM

Paul Doane took the reins at the Arkansas Teacher Retirement System (ATRS) on April 1 of this year. He has hit the ground running helping to wrap-up and implement the changes enacted in the 2007 Legislative Session, while managing to attend all of the regional Arkansas Retired Teacher Association (ARTA) meetings in all corners of the state.

Paul recently retired as Senior Vice President – Public Funds from Oppenheimer, Inc., in New York City, NY, where he spent the last 15 years. While at Oppenheimer he was the contact and account representative to ATRS. He has also worked as a State Senator for Massachusetts, served in the Navy during Vietnam, and was employed by State Street Bank and AG Edwards.

The retirement system he is taking over is in much better financial condition than when the former Director, David Malone, took over on January 1, 2003. The System currently has in excess of \$11.3 billion in the investment portfolio and has posted annual returns in excess of the assumed 8%.

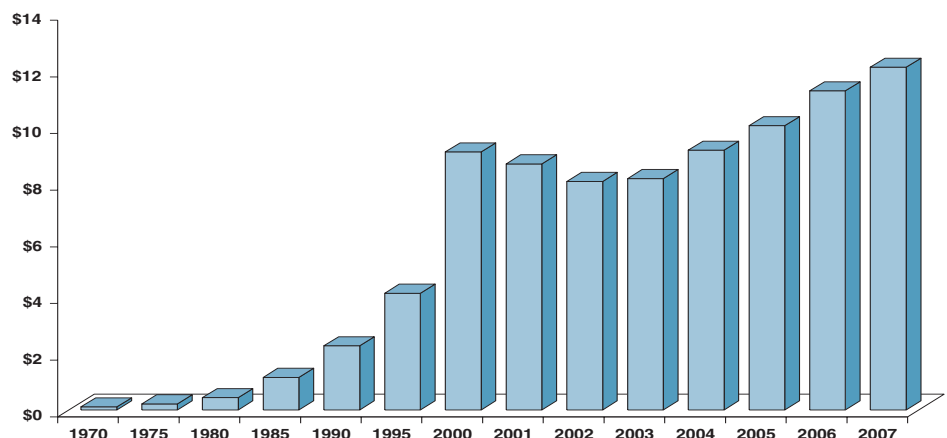
Investment Asset Allocation As of March 31, 2007



The Pie Chart to the left shows how the \$11.5 Billion of investments are allocated.

The Bar Graph shows the impressive growth of the fund over the past 27 years.

Growth of ATRS Fund Selected Years Ending June 30



2007-2008 RETIREMENT / T-DROP WORKSHOPS

You should plan to attend a workshop in your area if you are planning to enter the Teacher Deferred Retirement Option Plan (T-DROP) or retire on July 1, 2008.

Subjects to be covered include: T-DROP and the Retirement Application process, Estimates of Benefits, Option Choices, Distribution Choices for T-DROP members, Taxes, Insurance, and Cost-of-Living Adjustments.

Due to limited capacity, you must preregister. Registration forms will be mailed to eligible members prior to the workshop dates. For more information, you may call ATRS at 1-800-666-2877, or you may email the Pre-retirement Department at workshop@atrs.state.ar.us.

Workshops will begin promptly at the following times: Entering T-Drop, 4:00 p.m., check-in at 3:30 p.m.; Retirement for non-T-DROP members, 5:00 p.m., check-in at 4:30 p.m.; and Retirement for members in T-DROP, 6:00 p.m., check-in at 5:30 p.m.

City/Town	Location	Date
Ash Flat	Ozarka College - Ash Flat, 64 College Drive	October 15, 2007
Batesville	University of Arkansas Community College at Batesville, 2005 White Drive	October 8, 2007
Beebe	Arkansas State University - Beebe, 610 North Pecan	January 22, 2008
Bentonville	NorthWest Arkansas Community College, One College Drive	November 6, 2007
Blytheville	Arkansas Northeastern College, 2501 South Division	April 22, 2008
Brinkley	Brinkley Convention Center, 1501 Weatherby Drive	December 10, 2007
Camden	Southern Arkansas University Tech, 100 Carr Road, East Camden	January 28, 2008
El Dorado	Southark - Center for Workforce Ed., 3698 East Main	January 29, 2008
Farmington	Northwest AR ED Cooperative, #4 North Double Springs Road	November 5, 2007
Fort Smith	University of Arkansas - Fort Smith, 5210 Grand Avenue	March 10, 2008
Greenwood	Farmers Bank, 71 West Center Street	March 11, 2008
Hamburg	Hamburg School District, 202 East Parker Street	January 15, 2008
Harrison	North Arkansas College, 1515 Pioneer Drive	October 23, 2007
Heber Springs	Arkansas State University - Heber Springs, 71 Cleburne Park Road	April 15, 2008
Helena	Phillips County Community College, 1000 Campus Drive	March 18, 2008
Hot Springs	National Park Community College at Hot Springs, 101 College Drive	February 25, 2008
Jonesboro #1	Holiday Inn, 3006 South Caraway Road	April 7, 2008
Jonesboro #2	Holiday Inn, 3006 South Caraway Road	April 8, 2008
Leslie	North Central Career Center, 330 Oak Street	October 22, 2007
Little Rock	Pulaski Tech Business & Industry Center, 3303 East Roosevelt Road	February 5, 2008
Magnolia	Southern Arkansas University, 100 East University	February 11, 2008
Malvern	Ouachita Technical College, One College Circle	March 4, 2008
Mena	Rich Mountain Community College, 1100 College Drive	February 26, 2008
Monticello	Southeast Arkansas Education Cooperative, 1022 Scogin	January 14, 2008
Mountain Home	Arkansas State University Mountain Home, 1600 South College Street	October 16, 2007
Nashville	Cossatot Community College of the U of A, 1557 Highway 371 West	April 29, 2008
North Little Rock	Pulaski Technical College, 3000 West Scenic	December 17, 2007
Ozark	Arkansas Tech University - Ozark, Highway 23 North	November 27, 2007
Paragould	Paragould Community Center, 3404 Linwood Drive	March 24, 2008
Pine Bluff	Southeast Arkansas College, 1900 Hazel Street	September 25, 2007
Plumerville	Arch Ford Cooperative, 101 Bulldog Drive	December 3, 2007
Pocahontas	Black River Technical College, 1410 Hwy 304 East	March 25, 2008
Pulaski County	Pulaski Tech Business & Industry Center, 3303 East Roosevelt Rd	January 8, 2008
Russellville	Russellville High School, 2203 South Knoxville	November 26, 2007
Springdale	The Jones Center, 922 East Emma Avenue	October 30, 2007
Stuttgart	Phillips Community College, 2807 Hwy 165 South	October 2, 2007
Texarkana	Holiday Inn, 5100 North Stateline Avenue	February 12, 2008
West Memphis	Mid-South Community College, 2000 West Broadway	April 21, 2008
Wynne	East Arkansas Community College-Wynne Campus, 1790 North Falls Blvd	December 11, 2007

LITTLE “SMOKEY BEAR” RESCUED ON ATRS TIMBERLAND PROPERTY IN FLORIDA

Little “Smokey Bear” was rescued from the top of a tree after a fire caused by lightening swept through timberland in north Florida. Little Smokey Bear, 3 months old, had climbed up



about 65 feet in one of the tallest trees in the area. Likely, Mother Bear had ‘woofed’ little Smokey Bear up the tree to protect her. Little Smokey Bear’s mother had been burned on her paws by the fire and still apparently had carried the little bear cub in her mouth to safety. Little Smokey Bear could not be enticed to come down out of the tree any time soon. A possible solution to rescue the little bear cub would be to bring in a bucket truck to reach her position.

ATRS forestry consultant, The Forestry Company, constructed a road to the tree where the little bear had taken refuge so that a bucket truck could come in to rescue Little Smokey Bear. (The Forestry Company had skidders and other equipment in the area to protect ATRS timberland.) Little Smokey Bear and her mother, rescued on Mother’s Day, were taken to the University of Florida to be treated for burns and dehydration.

Little Smokey Bear and her mother will be released to the wild when her burnt paws have healed. Don Curtis, President of The Forestry Company, noted that both private firms like his and public agencies like the local fire department came together with equipment and expertise to rescue Little Smokey Bear and her mother.



July 1 - For this and a summary of other legislation that changed, go to our website for a printable copy.

www.artrs.gov

What’s New at ATRS

Better Member Service: Office hours for the summer, July and August, will be expanded to provide increased accessibility to the staff. The new office hours will be 7:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. We believe the increased availability to ATRS staff will allow more members to visit our facilities so we can answer more of your questions successfully. Please let us know what you think!

ATRS is Growing: Staffing increases over the past few years is catching up to the housing of ATRS staff. Starting in August we will be renovating the first floor, formerly a branch office of the Auditor of State, to house all of the Member Services group. ATRS will now occupy our entire building at 1400 West Third in Little Rock. Beginning sometime in early 2008, members will no longer have to take the elevator to talk with a retirement counselor, as they will all be located on the main level.

ATRS’s Website is Moving and Expanding: ATRS has applied to move our website address to www.artrs.gov. This move will shorten the address and make it easier to access. Staff email addresses will also change accordingly. For example: *John.Doe@artrs.state.ar.us* will soon be *John.Doe@artrs.gov*. Notification will take place in the next newsletter.

This fall ATRS will roll out an access portal for bookkeepers to use all over the state. The secured limited access feature will allow business officers to report required data that has been mailed to our offices. It will also contain the latest news and postings of changes happening at ATRS.

We are Going Green: That’s right, ATRS is implementing guidelines to reduce the use of electricity, paper, and other items that cannot be recycled or is not biodegradable. There are bins in the break rooms for different types of items that can be recycled, and we are encouraging staff to begin this process at home if their community offers a program. It may not be much, but it is a start.

WOODLAND HEIGHTS HAS 'TOPPING-OUT' CEREMONY

Arkansas Teacher Retirement System is approximately 60% through the \$18 million expansion of the Woodland Heights facility located just 2 blocks South of Interstate 630 on the Bauman Street exit. The current complex has 63 units. After the expansion, this total will more than double to 146.

Topping-out ceremonies were held June 15 at 10:00 a.m. and were attended by state dignitaries with press coverage provided by television and print media. The renovated and expanded facility is currently leasing units that will be ready for the new tenant's arrival sometime in January 2008, just six short months from now. The new units will consist of both 1 and 2 bedroom apartments.

The expansion will conclude the original plan's design. A center hub was initially designed to support the two (2) wings, but for various reasons the second wing was never constructed until now. This means the outstanding service provided in the past will continue for the current and new residents.

MEET MANJU

My name is Mullahalli Venkataramaniah Manjunath. Try saying it three times, and you will not want to talk to me afterwards. So, everyone takes a shorter and safer route and calls me "Manju." I am the Manager of the Data Processing Department of ATRS. Along with various other tasks, our department makes sure that the retiree payroll is processed accurately and in a timely manner so that all retirees are happy every month.

I was born in a beautiful city called Mysore in southern India and was raised with five other siblings in Bangalore, a cosmopolitan city known as the "Silicon Valley of India." Also called the Garden City, it has excellent year-round weather, which attracts a variety of multi-national companies. I attended a renowned college in Bangalore and obtained a bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering and later a master's degree in Engineering Design. I have been married since 1991 to my wonderful wife, Swaroopa.

The very first job of my career was a teaching job at my alma mater. I enjoyed doing this for over two years. Then I joined a premier software consulting company in India called Tata Consultancy Services. This is where I trained in software application development and was exposed to a wide variety of software and hardware platforms. After visiting New Jersey and California in the early 1990s, my wife and I migrated to the U.S. in 1994. In 2006 we both became U.S. citizens. We enjoy Little Rock and have made this our home from the beginning. I consulted for more than nine years for the Office of Child Support Enforcement before joining ATRS, first as a consultant, then as an employee. I have been with ATRS over four years and have enjoyed every bit of it. I can say that there has never been a dull moment here.

Board of Trustees Meeting Schedule

October 1 and 2

December 3 and 4

Investment Committee Meeting Schedule

September 10

November 12

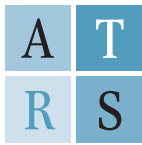
**All meetings are to be held on the third floor at the ATRS office. Investment Committee meetings start at 1:00 p.m.*



Address Changes

Please remember to keep your mailing address current with ATRS! It is important that you receive our mailings, as well as any IRS 1099 forms you may need in order to prepare your annual income tax information.

You may request a Change of Address form, or print a form from our website. You may drop us a note with your social security number and signature. If you use our e-mail address, you will save a phone call or postage by contacting us at info@atrs.state.ar.us.



Arkansas Teacher Retirement System
1400 West Third
Little Rock, AR 72201-1070

Address Change Requested

PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
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LITTLE ROCK, AR
PERMIT NO. 1130

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2007-2008 Benefits Payment Schedule

Month	*Checks Mailed	EFT Deposits
July	July 26, 2007	July 31, 2007
August	August 28, 2007	August 31, 2007
September	September 25, 2007	September 28, 2007
October	October 25, 2007	October 31, 2007
November	November 27, 2007	November 30, 2007
December	December 26, 2007	December 31, 2007

***Members who retired July 1, 1998, or later are required to receive benefit payments by electronic fund transfer (EFT).**

Payment Stubs

Members who receive benefits that are paid via direct deposit or electronic fund transfer will receive a payment stub in the months of July and December, and whenever the benefit amount changes.

**The ATRS Review is published
Spring and Fall each year and mailed
to active and retired ATRS members.**

Board of Trustees

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Robin Nichols, Vice-Chairman

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Beverly Leming	Bobby Lester
Linda Parsons	Janelle Riddle
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Candace Franks	Dr. T. Kenneth James
Martha Shoffner	Jim Wood

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